



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - December 3, 2002

- ***In the West***, precipitation is confined to the ***southern Rockies***, where high-elevation snow packs are benefiting from the passage of a developing winter storm. Elsewhere in the region, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, although ***Northwestern*** winter grains remain in need of rain or snow.
- ***On the Plains***, precipitation (mostly rain) is overspreading ***southern portions of the region***, slowing final summer crop harvesting but boosting soil moisture reserves for winter wheat establishment. Meanwhile, unfavorable dryness persists on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where drought conditions limited winter wheat's autumn establishment and raised concerns about the crop's winter hardiness.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, bitterly cold weather is maintaining stress on livestock and halting winter wheat development. This morning's temperatures were below 0 degrees F in parts of the ***northern Corn Belt***, falling to near -20 degrees F at a few locations in snow-covered ***southern Lower Michigan***.
- ***In the South***, showers and thunderstorms are developing in the ***western Gulf Coast region*** in advance of a developing storm system. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather prevails from the ***Delta to the Atlantic Coast***, favoring final summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting.

Outlook: Arctic air will settle across much of the ***central and eastern U.S.***, while a storm system organizing over the ***western Gulf of Mexico*** will provide a large area of precipitation to the ***southern Plains*** and ***lower Mississippi Valley***. As the storm tracks toward the ***Atlantic Coast***, rain and snow will overspread the ***Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Elsewhere, high pressure will maintain bitterly cold conditions across the ***Plains and Midwest***, while mild, dry weather will prevail ***west of the Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 8-12 calls for below-normal precipitation across the ***northern half of the nation***, while wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast across the ***South***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***south-central U.S.*** and from the ***Great Lakes States into the Northeast***, but warmer-than-normal weather is expected ***west of the Rockies***.

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